

the inference is a fair one, that the author would have it, "where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise"—and where a man is "*innocently*" wrong, 't would be folly to be right. This position, I think, the learned gentleman would have failed to sustain, even in his "more sanguine days," before he had passed the full vigor of his intellect, and when he "dealt heavy blows by logic"—*as he thought*.

I was instructed by men, "eminent in the profession" (and experience has convinced me of the truth of the lesson), that it was the duty of medical men, in their intercourse with "the public," to teach them, to a certain extent, the true principles of medical science, and, if possible, to guard them against the effects of the "medical delusions" of the times. And I may be singular in thinking that the physician who regards the pecuniary, the physical, the *moral*, and the social well-being of the people among whom he resides, will do this, even if, by so doing, he runs some risk of "*a poor living from the community*." If I were disposed to reform the world in medicine, I think I am as sensible of my mental and moral incapacity for doing it, as anybody else can be—still, I have my views on this and kindred subjects, and claim that I have an equal right, with others, to be heard, provided I avoid "hypocrisy, jealousy, envy, malice, uncharitableness," personalities and allusions to "*character*," as much as *they do*. In this communication I have endeavored to be cautious, and hope to see it in your next paper.

*Alna, Me., Jan. 6th, 1854.* Yours respectfully, W. B. S., M.D.

#### BITE OF A RATTLESNAKE.

BY E. STANLEY, M.D., OF SANDUSKY CITY, OHIO.

ON the 9th of August, 1851, Patrick Burne, a young man, came to my office about 4 o'clock, P.M., seeking medical aid. I found him partially delirious; pulse very much excited, ranging from 115 to 130; difficult and hurried respiration; skin hot and dry; eyes red and fiery; the hand, arm and shoulder, swollen to a great degree; pain of the limb almost insupportable.

On making inquiry into the history of this case, I learned that the patient had been bitten about ten hours previously, and some forty miles from this city, by a rattlesnake.

This venomous reptile was concealed beneath a stick of timber which was intended for a tie on a railroad, and as the man was in the act of moving it, the wound was inflicted upon the index finger of the left hand, near the second joint.

Taking into consideration the length of time which had elapsed after the infliction of the wound, the general excited state of the system, and the poisonous appearance of the limb, I immediately ordered depletion by applying as many cups at one time to the arm and shoulder as would cover the surface, continuing this course for a number of hours without intermission, and about three quarts of blood was taken.

Prescribed poultices over wound, and ammonia and ether internally.

10th.—Patient no better; delirious, pulse about the same, slept none,

and suffered excruciating pain every moment during the night; slight nausea; no abatement of the swelling of the limb; arm, shoulder, and the upper portion of the left side, were thickly covered with small blisters, filled with a fluid of a yellowish color. In addition to former treatment, ordered whisky *ad libitum*, till the system was under its influence.

11th.—Slight improvement; pulse about 100; swelling of the arm and shoulder a little diminished; still delirious, anxious and uneasy; very restless, dozed occasionally; skin hot and dry.

Same treatment, with the addition of opium.

12th.—Patient better; pulse less frequent; more quiet, and but little pain; slightly delirious; occasionally slept a few moments. Continued same prescription by adding to the whisky, capsicum, and administered it without regard to quantity, until the patient was fully under its influence. Ordered morphine to be given when symptoms indicated it.

13th.—A decided improvement; has passed the "crisis." Skin moist, quite natural; enlargement of the arm and shoulder subsided; delirium had ceased, talked rationally, and is speedily recovering his usual health.

*Buffalo Medical Journal.*

## THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL.

BOSTON, JANUARY 17, 1854.

*Doings of Chloroform.*—From Portland, Maine, a pamphlet has been received, written by John Lord, called an "Essay on the Rationale of the Doings of Chloroform." The author talks strangely, and almost bids defiance to the profession of the whole country. For example—"Why and how is it that the medical and surgical world have been so long deceived (if deceived) upon this vital subject?" "This question implies—first, that I have been successful in my Elijah or Mosaic demonstration; 2dly, that I hereby bring to light what was before unknown, and of course, that the faculty, as such, have been deceived." Now all this seems to indicate that the author ought himself to be put under the influence of the drug forthwith. Read this extract in further confirmation of it. "My method of giving it, and my philosophy out of which it grows, I cannot give in this tract. Suffice it to say, it is founded entirely on my philosophy of man and nature, as contained in all my tracts, and more especially in those upon 'Vis Medicatrix Naturæ,' and upon the 'Vapor Bath,' &c." By way of a still further illustration of the ridiculous character of this pamphlet by a master of all work, the following propositions on the twenty-first page are given, and they must close the notice taken of Mr. Lord's philanthropic labors.—"I offer, for the sum of \$25, to qualify any well-informed physician, surgeon or dentist, to use chloroform with all safety and excellency of effects, set forth in my paper above referred to, or in this Essay. I offer, for the sum of \$100, to impart the science and art of curing cancers, wens, tumors, abscesses, felons, &c. &c. That is, I will teach the true pathology and treatment of cancers, tumors, &c., and make known the nature, character and rationale of the agents I use in effecting cures. In connection herewith, I will reveal many other important, new and useful things."